

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims. This listing replaces all earlier versions and listings of the claims.

Claim 1 (previously presented): A print attribute management server for receiving print information and an instruction specifying print attribute information from a plurality of clients and executing print processing of the received print information at a printer designated from a plurality of printers, said server comprising:

managing means for managing a plurality of units of print attribute information used in executing the print processing by the designated printer, the plurality of units of print attribute information being input independent of the print information;

communicating means for receiving the print information and the instruction specifying print attribute information from the plurality of units of print attribute information managed by said managing means from one of the plurality of clients;

specifying means for specifying the print attribute information from among the plurality of units of print attribute information on the basis of the instruction received by said communication means; and

controlling means for converting the print information received by said communicating means into print data which can be printed by the designated printer, using the print attribute information specified by said specifying means.

Claim 2 (previously presented): A print attribute management server according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of units of print attribute information includes an attribute relating to print paper.

Claim 3 (previously presented): A print attribute management server according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of units of print attribute information includes an attribute relating to an output characteristic of a printer.

Claim 4 (previously presented): A print attribute management server according to claim 1, further comprising judging means for judging whether the received print information is received from an external client through the internet or received from a client under control via a local area network, wherein when said judging means judges that the received print information is received from a client under control via the local area network, said controlling means transmits the received print information to the designated printer without modifying the print information.

Claim 5 (previously presented): A print attribute management server according to claim 1, wherein print attribute information generated by a client under control via the local area network and/or an external client is received to be held and translated into a file in accordance with each printer.

Claim 6 (previously presented): A print attribute management server according to claim 1, wherein the print information received via the internet is a file which is generated by an operating system (OS) and takes a form of intermediate data.

Claim 7 (previously presented): A print processing method using a print attribute management server for receiving print information and an instruction specifying print attribute information from a plurality of clients and executing print processing of the

received print information at a printer designated from a plurality of printers, said method comprising the steps of:

managing a plurality of units of print attribute information used in executing the print processing by the designated printer, the plurality of units of print attribute information being input independent of the print information;

receiving the print information and the instruction specifying print attribute information from the plurality of units of print attribute information managed in said managing step from one of the plurality of clients;

specifying the print attribute information from among the plurality of units of print attribute information on the basis of the instruction received in said receiving step; and

converting the print information received in said receiving step into print data which can be printed by the designated printer, using the print attribute information specified in said specifying step.

Claim 8 (previously presented): A print processing method according to claim 7, wherein the plurality of units of print attribute information includes an attribute relating to print paper.

Claim 9 (previously presented): A print processing method according to claim 7, wherein the plurality of units of print attribute information includes an attribute relating to an output characteristic of said printer.

Claim 10 (previously presented): A print processing method according to claim 7, further comprising the step of judging whether the received print information is received from an external client via the internet or received from a client under control via a local area network, wherein when it is judged in said judgment step that the received print information is received from a client under control via the local area network, the received print information is controlled to be transmitted to the designated printer without modifying the print information in said control step.

Claim 11 (previously presented): A print processing method according to claim 7, wherein attribute information generated by a client under control via the local area network and/or an external client is received to be held and translated into a file in accordance with each printer.

Claim 12 (previously presented): A print processing method according to claim 7, wherein the print information received via the internet is a file in the form of intermediate data generated by an operating system (OS) .

Claim 13 (previously presented): A computer-readable storage medium for storing a print processing program using a print attribute management server for receiving print information and an instruction specifying print attribute information from a plurality of clients and executing print processing of the received print information at a printer designated from a plurality of printers, said print processing program comprising code for:

managing in a memory a plurality of units of print attribute information used in executing the print processing by the designated printer, the plurality of units of print attribute information being input independent of the print information;

receiving the print information and the instruction specifying print attribute information from the plurality of units of print attribute information managed in said managing step from one of the plurality of clients;

specifying the print attribute information from among the plurality of units of print attribute information on the basis of the instruction received in said receiving step; and

converting the print information received in said receiving step into print data which can be printed by the designated printer, using the print attribute information specified in said specifying step.

Claim 14 (previously presented): A storage medium according to claim 13, wherein the plurality of units of print attribute information includes an attribute relating to print paper.

Claim 15 (previously presented): A storage medium according to claim 13, wherein the plurality of units of print attribute information includes an attribute relating to an output characteristic of a printer.

Claim 16 (previously presented): A storage medium according to claim 13, wherein said print processing program further comprises code for judging whether the received print information is received from an external client via the internet or received

from a client under control via a local area network, wherein when it is judged in said judging step that the received print information is received from a client under control via the local area network, said controlling step includes transmitting the received print information to the designated printer without modifying the print information.

Claim 17 (previously presented): A storage medium according to claim 13, wherein, attribute information generated by a client under control via the local area network and/or an external client is received to be held and translated into a file in accordance with each printer.

Claim 18 (previously presented): A storage medium according to claim 13, wherein the print information received via the internet is a file in the form of intermediate data generated by an operating system (OS).

Claim 19 (currently amended): A print processing program used by a print attribute management server for receiving print information and an instruction specifying print attribute information from a plurality of clients and executing print processing of the received print information at a printer designated from a plurality of printers, said print processing program comprising code for:

managing in a memory a plurality of units of print attribute information used in executing the print processing [[by]] by the designated printer, the plurality of units of print attribute information being input independent of the print information;

receiving the print information and the instruction specifying print attribute information from the plurality of units of print attribute information managed in said managing step from one of the plurality of clients;

specifying the print attribute information from among the plurality of units of print attribute information on the basis of the instruction received in said receiving step; and

converting the print information received in said receiving step into print data which can be printed by the designated printer, using the print attribute information specified in said specifying step.

Claim 20 (previously presented): A print processing program according to claim 19, wherein the plurality of units of print attribute information includes an attribute relating to print paper.

Claim 21 (previously presented): A print processing program according to claim 19, wherein the plurality of units of print attribute information includes an attribute relating to an output characteristic of a printer.

Claim 22 (previously presented): A print processing program according to claim 19, further comprising code for judging whether the received print information is received from an external client via the internet or received from a client under control via a local area network, wherein when it is judged in said judging step that the received print information is received from a client under control via the local area network, said

controlling step includes transmitting the received print information to the designated printer without modifying the print information .

Claim 23 (previously presented): A print processing program according to claim 19, wherein attribute information generated by a client under control via the local area network and/or an external client is received to be held and translated into a file in accordance with each printer.

Claim 24 (previously presented): A print processing program according to claim 19, wherein print information received via the internet is a file in the form of intermediate data generated by an operating system (OS).

Claim 25 (currently amended): A print server for receiving print information from a plurality of clients via the Internet and enabling a designated printer to execute print processing of the received print information, said server comprising:

managing means for managing print attribute information received from a first client and used for executing the print processing by the designated printer, wherein the print attribute information is provided independent of the received print information and can be set to a print setting of printer drivers of the plurality of clients;

distributing means for distributing the print attribute information to a second client in response to a request for acquiring the print attribute information received from the second client; and

outputting means for receiving print information generated by a printer driver of the second client based on the distributed print attribute information and outputting the received print information to the designated printer,

wherein the print set of the printer driver of the second client is updated by the distributed print attribute information.

Claim 26 (currently amended): A control method performed in a print server for receiving print information from a plurality of clients via the Internet and enabling a designated printer to execute print processing of the received print information, said method comprising the steps of:

managing print attribute information received from a first client and used for executing the print processing by the designated printer, wherein the print attribute information is provided independent of the received print information and can be set to a print setting of printer drivers of the plurality of clients;

distributing the print attribute information to a second client in response to a request for acquiring the print attribute information received from the second client; and

receiving print information generated by a printer driver of the second client based on the distributed print attribute information and outputting the print information to the designated printer,

wherein the print setting of the printer driver of the second client is updated by the distributed print attribute information.

Claim 27 (currently amended): A computer-readable memory medium storing a computer program executing a control method in a print server for receiving print information from a plurality of clients via the Internet and enabling a designated printer to execute print processing of the received print information, said computer program comprising code for:

managing print attribute information received from a first client and used for executing the print processing by the designated printer, wherein the print attribute information is provided independent of the received print information and can be set to a print setting of printer drivers of the plurality of clients;

distributing the print attribute information to a second client in response to a request for acquiring the print attribute information received from the second client; and

receiving print information generated by a printer driver of the second client based on the distributed print attribute information and outputting the received print information to the designated printer,

wherein the print setting of the printer driver for the second client is updated by the distributed print attribute information.

Claim 28 (currently amended): A print control program executing a control method performed in a print server for receiving print information from a plurality of clients via the Internet and enabling a designated printer to execute print processing of the received print information, said print control program comprising code for:

managing print attribute information received from a first client and used for executing the print processing by the designated printer, wherein the print

attribute information is provided independent of the received print information and can be set to a print setting of printer drivers of the plurality of clients;

distributing the print attribute information to a second client in response to a request for acquiring the print attribute information received from the second client; and

receiving print information generated by a printer driver of the second client based on the distributed print attribute information and outputting the received print information to the designated printer,

wherein the print setting of the printer driver of the second client is updated by the distributed print attribute information.

Claim 29 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus operating as a client for communicating via the Internet with a server that manages print attribute information and for executing print processing by a printer, said apparatus comprising:

issuing means for issuing a request for acquiring print attribute information to the server, the print attribute information being managed independent of print information at the server;

print attribute setting means for acquiring the print attribute information in response to the issued acquisition request and performing print setting of a printer driver as a print attribute of print information on the basis of the acquired print attribute information; and

print data converting means for converting the print information into print data which can be printed by the printer based on the set print attribute by using the printer driver set by said print attribute setting means.

Claim 30 (previously amended): An information processing apparatus according to claim 29, further comprising:

inputting means for inputting print attribute information constituted by document-dependent setting information and device-dependent setting information; and

transmitting means for transmitting the inputted print attribute information to the server to be registered.

Claim 31 (currently amended): A method for controlling an information processing apparatus operating as a client for communicating via the Internet with a server that manages print attribute information and for executing print processing by a printer, said method comprising the steps of:

issuing a request acquiring print attribute information to the server, the print attribute information being managed independent of the print information at the server;

acquiring the print attribute information in response to the issued acquisition request and performing print setting of a printer driver as a print attribute of print information on the basis of the acquired print attribute information; and

converting the print information into print data which can be printed by the printer based on the set print attribute by using the printer driver set in said print attribute setting step.

Claim 32 (previously amended): A method according to claim 31, further comprising:

inputting print attribute information constituted by document-dependent setting information and device-dependent setting information; and transmitting the inputted print attribute information to the server to be registered.

Claim 33 (currently amended): A computer-readable storage medium storing an information processing program used by a client for communicating via the Internet with a server that manages print attribute information and for executing print processing by a printer, said information processing program comprising code for:

issuing a request for acquiring print attribute information to server, the print attribute information being managed independent of print information at the server;

acquiring the print attribute information in response to the issued acquisition request and performing print setting of a printer driver as a print attribute of print information on the basis of the acquired print attribute information; and

converting the print information into print data which can be printed by the printer based on the set print attribute by using the printer driver set in said print attribute setting step.

Claim 34 (previously amended): A storage medium according to claim 33, wherein said information processing program further includes code for:

inputting print attribute information constituted by
document-dependent setting information and device-dependent setting information;
and
transmitting the inputted print attribute information to the server to
be registered.